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Medical Officer of Health

1948.


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ANNUAL REPORT 1948.

DARLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the 67th Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary work of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There is a slight increase in the estimated total population from 9,512 to 10,030.

Birth Rate.

The live birth figure of 17.35 shows a decline from 20.08 for 1947. This follows the trend for the country as a whole, the national birth rate having declined from 20.5 in 1947 to 17.9 in 1948.

General Death Rate.

The death rate per thousand of the estimated population has fallen from 12.09 in 1947 to 9.47 in 1948. This rate is below the rate for England and Wales which is 10.8.

Heart Disease continued to head the list of causes of death, accounting for 30 out of 95 deaths or 31.6%. Intracranial Vascular Lesions came second accounting for 16 deaths or 16.8%. The third largest cause of death was Cancer which accounted for 11 deaths or 11.6%.

Infantile Mortality.

The death rate for all infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 34.48 which was a considerable improvement from the previous year's figure of 41.88. All these deaths were neonatal deaths and 66.7% of them were due to prematurity.

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.

No deaths occurred under this heading. The rate for England and Wales was 3.3 per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Mortality.

Nil.

Tuberculosis.

There was a considerable increase in notifications of Tuberculosis during the year, although only one death occurred as against 3 in the previous year.

Infectious Disease.

The notifications of Infectious Diseases declined from 154 cases in 1947 to 63 cases in 1948. The principal reason for this decline was due to the fact that only 44 cases of measles were notified for 1948 as against 127 in the previous year.

Poliomyelitis.

No case of this disease was notified during the year.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Housing.

The need for new houses is still urgent but it is pleasing to note that 53 Council Houses were completed and occupied during the year as against 36 the previous year.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

In connection with Sewerage and Sewage Disposal the position in some of the parishes is rather unsatisfactory and it is hoped that priority will be given to some of the schemes mentioned on Page 19.

I wish to express to the Council my appreciation for their support and I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor for his assistance in preparing the report and the Clerk to the Council and staff of the Health Department and other Council officials for their valuable help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. W. RODGERS,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE
LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

Medical Officer of Health .. M. W. Rodgers, M.B., Ch.B.,
B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Sur- J. D. Collins, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
veyor Certified Meat and Food
Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector J. Fall, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Engineering Assistants ... J. Cuthbertson.
E. Steele (Appointed Febru-
ary, 1948).

Chief Clerk and General
Assistant F. H. Hurworth.

Pupil Assistant J. Clough.

Shorthand Typists Miss M. H. Harrison.
Miss P. Westray (Appointed
12th April, 1948).

SECTION B.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Rural District in Acres	...	...	...	45,064
Resident Population	...	...	...	10,030
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	2,692
Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st August, 1948	...	...	...	£344/13/0d.
Rateable value at 1st April, 1948	...	...	...	£82,726

Social Conditions and Employment.

The chief industries are Agriculture, Lime burning and General Quarrying but with the New Trading Estate at Aycliffe and the building of the New Town, Newton Aycliffe, the character of our area is changing.

1. Newton Aycliffe.

Progress has continued during the year in connection with the building of the New Town at Aycliffe which has been provisionally named Newton Aycliffe. At the end of the year the population of the designated area was approximately 160, an increase of 100 during the year.

The first houses on the New Town were part of a contract of 41 aluminium bungalows and during the year further contracts were let for the erection of 50 Orlit Houses, 50 Unity Houses and 18 Schindler-Gohner Flats. Contracts were also accepted for a scheme for the construction of an outfall sewer and for a main surface water drain to serve part of this designated area, and pending the construction of the sewer, temporary works were built to deal with the drainage from the aluminium bungalows. Plans have also had some measure of approval in connection with the opening up of a new railway station near the junction of the Simpasture line and Bishop Auckland/Darlington line at the South-west boundary of the New Town and for the erection of Infant and Junior schools on Sugar Hill Farm site.

The labour position in connection with the erection of the New Town is very acute and it is understood that if the town is to be completed in accordance with the time schedule some action will have to be taken to attract building and Civil Engineering Labour to the New Town, particularly in the field of housing.

2. Aycliffe Trading Estate.

The work of converting the ex-ordnance factory now known as the Aycliffe Trading Estate continued during the year. The number of workers on the Estate remained fairly constant at about 3,400. Towards the end of the year the Remploy Factory was established at Aycliffe in joinery manufacture. This factory largely caters for registered disabled persons for whom it is difficult to find jobs under ordinary industrial conditions.

3. No. 2 Air Navigation School, Middleton-St.-George.

At the war-time aerodrome at Goosepool now known as No. 2 Air Navigation School, 60 Airmans Married Quarters were completed and occupied during the year and a further 6 houses were in course of construction, while certain temporary buildings constructed during the war are being converted to Married Quarters. At present 5 are occupied and a further 7 are under construction.

4. Aycliffe Hospital.

The School Aycliffe Mental Colony which was built just prior to the outbreak of war and which was closed during that period opened on the 21st January, 1948. This Institution is now known as the Aycliffe Hospital and is under the control of Dr. W. Dunne, Medical Superintendent. The number of patients, male and female accommodated here at 31st December, 1948, was 154 and it is hoped in the near future to deal with 360 patients.

The hospital has its own market garden and farm adjacent with a Tuberculin Tested herd and is almost self-supporting in this connection.

5. Messrs. Crossley's Brickworks, Hurworth.

Messrs. Crossley and Son's new brickworks at Hurworth were in full production.

6. Employment.

There is no falling off in the number of people employed in the area. Some of those employed are registered disabled persons, others unemployed are in the higher aged range and need work within their limited powers. For these people it is extremely difficult to find employment. Generally unemployment in the area is at a very low level and in Agriculture it is negligible.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births and Birth Rate.

The number of live births in the district was 174 as against 191 in the previous year.

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	73	85	158
Illegitimate	...	...	8	8	16
					<hr/> 174 <hr/>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—17.35.

The rate for England and Wales is 17.9.

Still Births.

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
					<hr/> 5 <hr/>

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—0.498.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population for England and Wales—0.42.

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births (Live and Still)—27.93.

The total Birth Rate per 1,000 of the resident population—17.84.

Maternal Mortality.

Nil.

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of infants under 1 year—6.

			Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	2	—	2
					<hr/> 6 <hr/>

Infantile Mortality Rate.

Death rate of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births—25.3.

Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—125.

Death rate of all infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births—34.48.

The rate for England and Wales—34.

Deaths and Death Rate.

Male	Female	Total
54	41	95

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—9.47.

Rate for England and Wales—10.8.

Table Showing Causes of Death.

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	1
Cancer	3	8
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	11	5
Heart Diseases	16	14
Other diseases of Circulatory System	2	2
Bronchitis	—	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Other Respiratory diseases	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum ...	—	1
Appendicitis	1	—
Other digestive disorders	1	—
Nephritis	2	2
Premature births	3	1
Congenital malformations, birth injuries		
inf. diseases	2	—
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—
Other Violent Causes	2	1
All other causes	8	3
	<hr/> 54	<hr/> 41

Cancer.

The following table gives the deaths from cancer in age groups and localisation.

Localisation	Age in years.					
	1-25	26-45	46-65	66-75	76 upw'ds	Totals
Stomach ...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Breast ...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Rectum ...	—	—	—	1	1	2
Larynx ...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Liver ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prostate ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bowels ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bladder ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lymphatic glands	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ovary ...	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	—	—	4	4	3	11

Table of Birth and Death Rates for recent years as compared with England and Wales.

Years	General Birth Rate		Infantile Mort. Rate		Live Birth Rate	
	D'ton R.D.C.	Eng & Wales	D'ton R.D.C.	Eng & Wales	D'ton R.D.C.	Eng & Wales
1940 ...	13.08	14.3	73.77	55	15.92	14.6
1941 ...	11.07	12.9	76.2	59	14.9	14.2
1942 ...	10.06	11.6	12.9	49	16.32	14
1943 ...	12.07	12.1	51.84	49	16.75	16.5
1944 ...	12.04	11.6	45	46	12.26	17.6
1945 ...	13.69	11.4	45	46	17.39	16.1
1946 ...	12.15	11.5	46	43	16.20	19.1
1947 ...	12.09	12	41.88	41	20.08	20.5
1948 ...	9.47	10.8	34.48	34	17.35	17.9

**Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates and Analysis of Mortality
and Maternal Death Rates for the year 1948.**

	Rates per 1,000 population	
	Darlington R.D.C.	England and Wales
Births :—		
Live	17.35	17.9
Still	0.49	0.42
Deaths :—		
All causes ...	9.47	10.8
Typhoid and Para- Typhoid ...	—	0.00
Whooping Cough	—	0.02
Diphtheria ...	—	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.1	0.51
Influenza ...	—	0.03
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio Encephalitis ...	—	0.01
Small Pox ...	—	—
Pneumonia ...	0.2	0.41
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	
Deaths under 1 year of age	34.48	34
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	—	3.3
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births. (i.e. Live and Still).	
Maternal Mortality :—		
Abortion with Sepsis	—	0.11
Abortion without Sepsis	—	0.05
Puerperal Infection	—	0.13
Other Maternal Causes	—	0.73

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of cases after correction set out in age groups and comparison with table for 1947.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE	Year	0-1		1-3		3-5		5-10		10-15		15-25		25 & over		Total	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	1947	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	7
	1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	5	4
Whooping Cough	1947	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5
	1948	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Measles	1947	2	1	10	8	9	9	35	32	4	6	2	5	1	3	63	64
	1948	—	2	4	3	6	1	13	14	—	—	—	1	—	—	23	21
Diphtheria	1947	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
	1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Acute Pneumonia	1947	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1
	1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1947	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Polio Myelitis	1947	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
	1948	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—

63 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified as against 154 in 1947.

There was one non-civilian case of Scarlet Fever in the age group 15-25 notified during 1948, as against two non-civilian cases of Scarlet Fever, one in the 15-25 age group and one in the 25 and over age group, and one non-civilian case of Measles in the age group 25 and over for 1947.

Total number of cases admitted to hospital—15 as against 19 for 1947.

Infectious Diseases.	Suspected	Confirmed
Scarlet Fever	9	9
Diphtheria	4	1
Puerperal Sepsis	1	1
Mumps	1	1

Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Results for	Positive	Negative	Total
Tubercle Bacillus ...	7	20	27
B. Diphtheria	7	3	10
Haemolytic Streptococci	2	1	3
Non Haemolytic Streptococci ...	1	—	1
Staphylococcus Aureus	3	—	3
Salmonella Organisms	—	15	15

Diphtheria Immunisation.

By virtue of the National Health Service Act the Local Health Authority (Durham C.C.) became responsible for the administration of Diphtheria Immunisation from the 5th July, 1948.

Immunisation in relation to child population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 30th June, 1948 :—

Age as at 31/12/48 (i.e. born in years)	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5-9 1939-43	10-14 1934-38	Total under 15
Number Immunised	8	23	48	126	103	632	496	1436
Estimated Mid-year child pro - portion 1948	825					1122		2247

Return for Six Months ending 30th June, 1948.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Primary Immunisation in the Authorities Area.			Number of Children who were given a reinforcing injection.
Age at date of final injection.	Total.		During 6 months ending 30th June 1948.
Under 5	5 - 14		
37	10	47	1

For the six months ending the 30th June, 1948, the figures show that 37.3% of the total child population of the rural district under 5 years, and 79.3% of the 5 to 15 years population, completed a full course of immunisation.

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths, 1948.

There were 2 notifications and no deaths during the year (similar figures were reported last year).

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1948 :—

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory male	female	Non-Respira'y male	female	Respiratory male	female	Non-Respira'y male	female
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total ...	4	3	2	1	—	1	—	—
	7		3		1		—	

The total number of new cases for 1948 was 10 (7 of these being Pulmonary and 3 Non Pulmonary) against a total of 5 cases of Tuberculosis (4 Pulmonary and 1 Non Pulmonary) for the year 1947.

One death occurred during 1948 (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) against 3 deaths registered the year previous (2 Pulmonary and 1 Non Pulmonary).

Number of cases on Register at 31st December, 1948 :—

Pulmonary			Non Pulmonary		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
37	63	100	29	27	56

Food Poisoning.

The Medical Officer of Health of the County Borough of Gateshead notified a case of food poisoning that had been treated at one of the hospitals at Gateshead. The patient's home address was in Gateshead. Samples of his faeces were taken there, indicating organisms of the Positive Salmonella group; but before the result had come through, he, with other 40 boys, had taken up temporary residence at an Agricultural Camp at Hurworth.

Immediately the department was notified the usual enquiries were made and samples of the other boys' faeces taken. The patient returned to a hospital at Gateshead for treatment and no further cases were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

No action was taken under this section.

Clinics.

There are no clinics in the Rural District, the area being served from Darlington, Chilton Buildings and Shildon. The question of the opening of a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic at Middleton-St.-George is under consideration.

The following services are administered by the County Council :—

1. Venereal Disease.
2. Tuberculosis.
3. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Infectious Disease Hospital.

This service is administered by arrangements with the Darlington Fever Hospital. On the 5th July, 1948, this became a state service, and the cost of the removal and treatment of patients is borne nationally. Prior to that date the cost was borne by the Rural District Council.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES, WATER SUPPLY,
SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**Water.**

There is a piped water supply to the major part of the Rural District by public mains owned by the following statutory undertakers:—

Tees Valley Water Board.

Durham County Water Board.

Darlington Corporation.

Darlington Rural District Council.

The Council obtains bulk supplies from the Tees Valley Water Board and Darlington Corporation, water from the former authority being distributed through the mains in the parishes of Brafferton Coatham Mundeville, part of Aycliffe and Whessoe, and from the latter in part of the parish of Barmpton.

All these supplies are satisfactory both in quantity and in quality, except at Sadberge where the quantity of water available is rather limited owing to the size of the mains and the lack of pressure therein.

In the parishes of Aycliffe, Brafferton, Middleton-St.-George and Neasham, the pressure of water in the mains is, I understand, such that it is not practical to make extensions which are needed either in the parish or to adjacent parishes.

The majority of the houses not connected to the public mains are isolated premises and are served by private sources of supply (i.e. springs or wells). The village of Great Stainton is supplied from a public well and the hamlet of Low Dinsdale is served by private wells and springs. The latter supplies are not entirely satisfactory in their present form in respect of quality or quantity.

2. Samples of water for chemical or bacteriological examination have been taken by the Council as follows :—

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Supply.</i>	<i>Reason taken</i>	<i>Observations.</i>
1	4/2/48	Walworth Gate	Public Well	Proposed Housing Site	Slight surface contamination. If this is remedied the supply would be wholesome.
2	22/4/48	“Tall Trees House”, Middle-Row	Mains T.V.W.B.	Public Complaint.	Supply quite wholesome.
3	6/9/49	Gt. Stainton	Public Well.	Public Complaint	Surface contamination. If chlorination was carried out efficiently supply would be wholesome.
4	17/11/48	Bracks Farm Heighington.	Private Well.	Owner's request.	Unfit for human consumption or dairy work.
5	1/12/48	Mill Cottages, Brafferton.	D.R.D.C. Main	Public Complaint	Supply quite wholesome.

With regard to Sample No. 4 the premises concerned were reasonably near to a public main and when the supply was condemned, the owner immediately took one from the public main.

There are no installations for the treatment of water apart from filtration and chlorination.

The following is a list giving degrees of hardness for each supply :—

Durham County Water Board ...	...	2.5
Tees Valley Water Board ...	...	4.8
Darlington Corporation ...	...	3 to 10—
(subject to variation due to flow in river).		

3. No waters in the area are known to have plumbo-solvent action.

4. The proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from public mains is as follows :—

PARISH	No. of Houses in Parish	Approx. Population	Water Authority Supplying	Direct to the house		By means of stand pipe	Total houses supplied	% of houses supplied	pop. supplied direct	pop. supplied by stand pipe
				Open	Meter					
Archdeacon Newton...	17	61	Church Commissioners Bulk from T.V.W.B.	—	9	—	9	53%	32	—
Aycliffe ...	273	977	D.R.D.C. and D.C.W.B.	181	9	78	268	98.2%	683	279
Barnpton ...	27	97	D.R.D.C. Bulk Supply from D'ton Corporation	11	2	—	13	48.2%	47	—
Blackwell ...	143	512	Darlington Corporation	117	18	—	135	94.4%	483	—
Brafferton ...	51	182	D.R.D.C.	37	3	—	40	78.4%	143	—
Great Burdon ...	22	79	T.V.W.B.	18	2	—	20	90.9%	72	—
Coatham Mundeville...	45	161	D.R.D.C. and D.C.W.B.	28	6	—	34	75.5%	122	—
High Coniscliffe ...	82	293	T.V.W.B.	63	6	—	69	84.2%	247	—
Low Coniscliffe ...	84	297	T.V.W.B.	73	9	—	82	98.8%	293	—
Denton ...	22	79	Raby Estates Private Supply	17	—	—	17	77.3%	61	—
Low Dinsdale ...	88	315	T.V.W.B.	69	3	—	72	81.8%	258	—
East & West Newbigen ...	9	32	T.V.W.B.	—	3	—	3	33.3%	32	—
Bishopton ...	95	340	T.V.W.B.	75	8	—	83	87.4%	297	—
Heighington ...	308	1,102	D.C.W.B.	174	40	36	250	81.2%	894	129
Houghton-le-Side ...	23	82	D.C.W.B.	—	5	—	5	21.7%	18	—
Hurworth ...	498	1,782	T.V.W.B.	443	19	—	462	92.7%	1,633	—
Killerby ...	27	97	T.V.W.B.	18	3	—	21	77.8%	75	—
Middleton-St.-George ...	429	1,535	T.V.W.B.	405	12	—	417	97.2%	1,492	—
Great Stainton ...	23	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton Palms ...	15	54	T.V.W.B.	9	3	—	12	80%	43	—
Neasham ...	89	318	T.V.W.B.	62	3	—	65	73%	233	—
Piercelbridge ...	54	193	T.V.W.B.	43	4	—	47	87%	168	—
Little Stainton ...	14	50	T.V.W.B.	8	3	—	11	78.6%	39	—
Sadberge ...	156	558	T.V.W.B.	139	9	—	148	94.9%	530	—
Sockburn ...	12	43	Sockburn Estate	5	—	—	5	41.7%	18	—
Summerhouse ...	28	100	T.V.W.B.	26	2	—	28	100%	100	—
Walworth ...	28	100	Walworth Estate	11	—	—	11	39.3%	39	—
Whesoe ...	142	508	D.R.D.C. & D'ton Copr.	122	6	—	128	90.1%	458	—
	2,804	10,029		2,154	87	114	2,455	86.4%	8,530	408

Improvements.

During the year a branch main was laid to the village of Houghton-le-Side from the Heighington to Bolam main.

Proposed.

Aycliffe.

The Council decided after a meeting with the Durham County Water Board to allow that authority to take over its statutory obligation for the supply of water to this parish. The reason for this action being to improve the supply of water to this part of the area. No definite date was fixed for the transfer.

Water and Sewage Act, 1944.

No further progress has been made in connection with the schemes of water supply extensions to the parishes of Great Stainton, Walworth, and Walworth Gate, Neasham, Low and Over Dinsdale, details of which were given in the Medical Officer's Report for 1946.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

As indicated in previous reports the arrangement for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal in the major part of the district is not entirely in accordance with modern standards, new works or extensions being required in the following parishes :—

Archdeacon Newton, Aycliffe, Bishopton, Blackwell, Brafferton, Coatham Mundeville, Transport Cafe Area, Great Burdon, Great Stainton, High Coniscliffe, Hurworth, Low Coniscliffe, Merrybent Estate, Middleton-St.-George, Neasham, Piercebridge, Sadberge, Summerhouse and Whessoe.

The villages of Redworth, Heighington and Sadberge are served by fairly modern schemes although some improvements are required, particularly at Sadberge where part of the village is still drained into an old type of septic tank. In the remaining villages and hamlets in the district, sewage is conveyed along with surface water to septic tanks, some with old type filters or land irrigation. Many houses of recent construction have their own cesspools, particularly where they have been sited away from sewer lines, but for the past four years we have insisted that in place of cesspools small sewage works should be constructed.

Proposals.

Archdeacon Newton.

The hamlet is comprised of approximately nine dwelling houses including farms drained to a septic tank, the overflow of which discharges into a ditch. During the year the owners, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, decided to put in a small sewage scheme to abate the nuisance, providing the Council were agreeable to maintaining the works on completion. Plans and particulars are being prepared for submission to the Council and it is hoped that this scheme will be carried out in 1949.

Improvements.

No progress has been made in the preparation of plans, section and detail of the schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal mentioned in last year's report, which in 1946 were approved by the Council and the County Council and the cost of which at that time was £67,637.

Maintenance of Council Sewage Works.

The Council carry out the maintenance, repair and cleansing of all sewers, and sewage disposal works in the district. The tanks at the sewage works are emptied periodically, filters attended to regularly and a careful check kept on the type of effluent discharged from the works. The ditches in which the effluent is discharged are cleansed and trimmed once a year.

Sewers are flushed and scraped as necessary and man-holes examined.

The Council are responsible for the maintenance, repair and emptying of certain cesspools at Piercebridge, Whessoe, Middleton-St.-George, Aycliffe, Beacon Hill, Sadberge and Great Burdon.

All this work is done by direct labour, the Council employing five men for the purpose.

Rivers and Streams (River Pollution Prevention Act). Tees.

The County Medical Officer's quarterly reports indicate that routine samples were taken during the year and on the whole were satisfactory. Pollution was observed on one occasion, caused by the collapse of one of the earth banks to the settling pond at the new Sand and Gravel works at Piercebridge, but a new and more effective bank was soon built.

Skerne.

Routine samples were taken throughout the year and except for one occasion proved satisfactory. Slight pollution was however detected at Barmpton Sand and Gravel Works caused when pipes were changed from one tank to another.

General.

Every effort was made during the year to prevent pollution of the rivers and streams within the district, by regular attention to all the Council's sewage works.

Public Scavenging.

Public scavenging is carried out throughout the whole of the district except for a few isolated farms and premises which make their own arrangements. The following shows the district that each of the vehicles serve and the frequency of collection :—

1. **Bedford Vehicle No. 1.** (first registered 30th November, 1946). Operated by Driver and 3 men in the parishes of Piercebridge, High Coniscliffe, Low Coniscliffe, Summerhouse, Killerby, Houghton-le-Side, Heighington, Redworth, Aycliffe, Bishopston, Little Stainton, Great Stainton and Blackwell, Coatham Mundeville.

Collection—Aycliffe and Heighington—once every 2 weeks. Remainder once every 4 weeks.

2. **Bedford Vehicle No. 2.** (Replacing Vulcan which was first registered 1926). Was registered 1st September 1948. Operated by Driver and 2 men in the parishes of Middleton-St.-George, and Sadberge, Walworth and Denton.

Collection—once every 3 weeks.

3. **Bedford Vehicle No. 3.** (Replacing Vulcan Vehicle first registered in 1935). Was registered 15th December, 1948. Operated by Driver and 3 men in the parishes of Hurworth Place, Hurworth, Neasham, Low Dinsdale, Brass Castle, Great Burdon, Whessoe and Brafferton.

Collection—once every 3 weeks.

The work is carried out by direct labour and overtime has to be worked to ensure a regular collection. To avoid this and to improve the service a new Bedford 3-ton vehicle was ordered in December, 1948.

The refuse is separated by the householder and collected separately. Tins, bones, textiles and paper are salvaged. The majority of the other refuse, apart from glass, is tipped on various farm lands throughout the district and used as a fertilizer. The glass and other matters are disposed of on one of the Council's tips. The Council have tips at Heighington, Neasham, Piercebridge, Blackwell and Whessoe.

Owing to the gradual diminishing of the wet refuse some difficulty is experienced in persuading farmers to take the refuse as a fertilizer. Difficulties have also been experienced in that the householder is not continuing to keep separate refuse and accordingly it is expected that in 1949 by far the greater part of all refuse collected will have to be disposed of by controlled tipping.

A Ford 10-cwt. van is available for the use of the Sanitary and Scavenging foreman, to carry out miscellaneous duties.

One of the Council's vehicles (Bedford No. 2) is utilised by the Croft Rural District Council for the collection of refuse and salvage in the Parish of Croft once a month.

Cesspool Emptying.

The Council do not empty private cesspools in their area.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 5 ash closets and 17 privy middens were converted into water closets under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The owners of the property concerned received a grant of half of the cost, the maximum grant paid being £12 10s. 0d. for each conversion.

During the year the Council paid £274 10s. 0d. in grants as against £235 the previous year, when 17 ash-closets and 3 privy middens were converted into water closets.

Salvage.

The scheme for recoverable materials was continued during the year and the following have been salvaged and sold:—

		Tons.	Cwts.	Qts.	Price.
Scrap Metal	...	27	11	3	£27 11s. 9d.
Waste Paper	...	34	16	0	£223 17s. 10d.
Textiles	...	4	9	1	£44 2s. 0d.
Totals	...	66	17	0	£295 11s. 7d.

This shows an improvement on the previous year when the total sales amounted to £189 7s. 4d.

Sanitary Inspection.

Summary of Inspections and Re-inspections under the Public Health Acts.	No. of Visits.	No. of informal notices served.	No. of informal notices remedied.
Water Supplies	6	1	1
Defective Yard Paving ...	—	—	—
Housing Inspections ...	42	18	10
Ash Pits and Privy ...	2	1	1
Water Closets	27	2	2
Drainage	28	3	3
Dangerous Buildings ...	1	1	1
Moveable Dwellings ...	8	—	—
Animal Nuisances ...	4	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	7	1	1
Totals ...	125	27	19

No. of General Inspections and Visits.

Cowsheds	56
Dairies	56
Sewage	135
Water Supplies	18
Foundations	85
Buildings in Course of Erection ...	137
Drains Inspected and tested ...	205
Completed Properties	90
Council houses—repairs, etc. ...	52
Food Inspection	24
Miscellaneous (Building Licences etc.)	290
Infectious Diseases	15
Total ...	1,163

Disinfestation.

No verminous premises were notified, nor were any premises found to be in such a state during routine housing inspection.

Schools.**Blackwell School.**

A scheme was prepared by the County Architect for the conversion of the Sanitary conveniences at the above school, submitted to the Ministry of Education, and approved. Work was commenced in December of this year and it is hoped that early in 1949 the whole of the Sanitary arrangements will be on water carriage system.

Sadberge School.

No improvement has been made in connection with this school but it is hoped that when the County Council take it over, conversion to water carriage will be commenced.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. General Information.

New Dwellings by Private Enterprise.

Building Licences for the erection of 5 houses at a cost of £8,210 were issued on behalf of the Council during the year, making a total number of Building Licences issued to date for 25 houses at a total cost of £32,635.

Erection of New Houses.

15 houses were completed by private enterprise during the year, compared with 5 during 1947.

Building Licences for the erection of 4 houses at a total cost of £10,429 were also issued by other Licensing Departments during the year.

Civil Building Licences.

The Council as Licensing Authority issued 138 licences in connection with housing amounting to £15,516 and 59 licences were also issued for work other than housing at a cost of £3,122.

Conversion and Adaptations.

One Building licence for the conversion of a house into 4 flats at a cost of £1,448 was issued during the year.

Council Houses.

During the year a total of 53 houses were completed and occupied, compared with 36 during 1947. 27 of these were of the traditional brick type and 26 Airey type.

Parish	Situation	Type of house	No. erected
Aycliffe	Durham Road, Aycliffe ...	Airey	4
	Atkinson Gardens, Aycliffe	Airey	4
Brasserton	Brasserton Village	Airey	8
Heighington	Mill Lane, Redworth	Airey	4
High Coniscliffe	High Coniscliffe Village ...	Airey	4
Sadberge	Norton Road	Airey	2
Hurworth	Emmerson Road, Hurworth	Trad. brick	7
	Sanderson Road, Hurworth	"	6
Middleton-St-George	Thorn tree Gardens, Middleton-St-George... ..	"	8
Sadberge	Norton Crescent, Sadberge ...	"	6
		TOTAL ...	53

Plans were approved and works commenced on houses as follows :—

9	Houses at Sadberge.
15	„ „ Middleton-St.-George.
4	„ „ Walworth Gate.
12	„ „ Aycliffe.
10	Airey type at Aycliffe.
2	„ „ „ Brafferton.

Temporary Housing—Goosepool Aerodrome.

The adaptation of 13 Nissen huts and 1 Sanitary Block into dwelling houses was completed during the year and thereby the conditions under which the Squatters were living improved and additional accommodation found for a further two families.

Applications for Council Houses.

The following is a list of applications received for Council Houses to date :—

Residing in Rural Area.			Not Residing in Rural Area.		
Hurworth	...	77	Hurworth	...	43
Middleton-St.-George	...	112	Middleton-St.-George	...	34
Redworth	...	5	Redworth	...	2
Sadberge	...	52	Sadberge	...	32
Brafferton	...	2	Brafferton	...	—
High Coniscliffe	...	5	High Coniscliffe	...	6
Piercebridge	...	3	Piercebridge	...	1
Aycliffe	...	105	Aycliffe	...	51
Bishopton	...	19	Bishopton	...	7
Heighington	...	48	Heighington	...	9
Killerby	...	2	Killerby	...	1
Walworth	...	1	Walworth	...	19
Anywhere in Area	...	28	Anywhere in Area	...	1

Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

The following list gives the formal applications dealt with during the year :—

	Approved.	Disapproved
1. New houses, bungalows, and shops ...	23	1
2. Garages, sheds and outbuildings ...	10	—
3. Alterations, additions, conversions (housing) ...	23	—
4. Agricultural buildings, etc. ...	19	—
5. Factories ...	16	—
6. Quarries ...	5	2
7. Advertisements, signs, etc. ...	1	1
8. Accesses ...	2	—
9. Overhead electric lines ...	6	—
Totals ...	105	4

Plans under the Council's Building Byelaws.

The following is a list of plans submitted under the Byelaws during the year :—

	Approved	Disapproved
1. New houses, bungalows, and shops ...	21	1
2. Garages, sheds, etc.	19	—
3. Alterations, additions and conversions (housing)	44	—
4. Agricultural buildings	19	—
5. Drainage	14	—
6. Factories	16	—
7. Roads and Sewers	1	—
	<hr/> 134	<hr/> 1

2. Housing Statistics.

Owing to pressure of more essential work in the department it was impossible to make the desired progress with the housing survey.

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected in detail	39
(b) Number of visits made for the purpose ...	42

Category of Houses Inspected.

No. of dwelling houses fit in all respects	13
No. of dwelling houses requiring minor repairs ...	7
No. of dwelling houses requiring structural alterations or repairs	13
No. of dwelling houses unfit for human habitation	6

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Although unable to carry out routine inspections of all cowsheds and dairies during the year, every application for new registration or for a Special Designation licence was dealt with by a special visit. All complaints have been investigated and every effort has been made to keep a high standard for the production of milk.

The total number of registered premises within the district is 258 including 15 producers of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and 36 producers of "Accredited." One supplementary licence to sell Tuberculin Tested milk and two supplementary licences to sell Pasteurised milk were issued.

Meat and Other Foods.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption :—

1 - Chest of Tea (72 lbs.).

(As this was above the minimum quantity, as defined by the Salvaged Goods Order, 1948, the Ministry of Food were informed and undertook the disposal of the tea).

Ice Cream.

During the year six applications were received for registration under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the Storage and Sale of ice cream. The premises were inspected, found suitable, and duly registered.

Slaughter Houses — Slaughtering.

Under the Government scheme of Centralised slaughter houses, all slaughtering for the area is carried out in the Slaughter House in Park Lane, Darlington. During 1948 the Ministry of Food accepted five slaughter houses in the area as "slaughtering points" for pigs.

4 new and 15 renewal licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

SECTION F.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1.—**Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspection (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occu.'s Prosec- cuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	40	35	Nil.	Nil.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Author- ity	85	19	1	Nil.
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Totals ...	125	54	1	Nil.

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecution were instit'd (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	1	—

There is one outworker in the district making wearing apparel and there have been no notices served on him,

SECTION G.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

All complaints from private premises were investigated and dealt with.

Petroleum (Regulation) Act, 1928-36.

14 new and 29 renewal of applications for licences to keep petroleum spirit were received during the year and all licences were granted.

Byelaws in Force in District.

				Date of Operation.
New Streets	...	...	...	9th May, 1938
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	9th May, 1938
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	1st June, 1938

